

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A data processing apparatus comprising:
a display for displaying text and/or graphics;
an alphanumeric keyboard having a first group of keys and a second group of keys, each of the first group of keys having assigned thereto a specific alphabetic character, and each of the second group of keys having assigned thereto both a specific alphabetic character and a specific number; and
user interface generation logic to monitor keys on the keyboard selected in sequence by the end user, and if all keys within the sequence are keys within the second group of keys, to then generate within the display a contact list containing contact entries, each of the contact entries within the list identified based on the alphabetic characters associated with the sequence of selected keys and/or the numbers associated with the sequence of selected keys.
2. The data processing apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the user interface generation logic further generates a visual display of both the alphabetic characters and the numeric characters associated with each of the keys selected in the sequence.
3. The data processing apparatus as in claim 2 wherein the alphabetic characters and numeric characters associated with each key are displayed adjacent to one another.

4. The data processing apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising:
an address book, wherein the user interface generation logic queries the address book using the alphabetic characters and/or numbers associated with the sequence of keys to identify the contact entries to include within the contact list.

5. The data processing apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the contact entries within the list have alphabetic characters and/or numbers highlighted corresponding to the alphabetic characters associated with the sequence of selected keys and/or the numbers associated with the sequence of selected keys.

6. The data processing apparatus as in claim 1 wherein, if one or more keys within the sequence are not keys within the second group of keys, then the user interface generation logic to generate within the display a contact list containing contact entries, each of the contact entries within the list identified based solely on the alphabetic characters associated with the sequence of selected keys.

7. The data processing apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising:
the user interface generation logic causing the specific number associated with each key in the second group of keys to be selected rather than the specific alphanumeric character in response to detecting that no contact entries exist which correspond to the alphabetic characters and/or the numbers associated with the sequence of selected keys.

8. The data processing apparatus as in claim 7 wherein the user interface generation logic generates a visual display of the numeric characters but not the alphabetic characters or the contact list.

9. A method comprising:

assigning to each of a first group of keys of an alphanumeric keyboard a specific alphabetic character;

assigning to each of a second group of keys of the alphanumeric keyboard both a specific alphabetic character and a specific number; and

monitoring keys on the keyboard selected in sequence by an end user, and if all keys within the sequence are keys within the second group of keys, generating within the display a contact list containing contact entries, each of the contact entries within the list identified based on the alphabetic characters associated with the sequence of selected keys and/or the numbers associated with the sequence of selected keys.

10. The method as in claim 9 further comprising:

generating a visual display of both the alphabetic characters and the numeric characters associated with each of the keys selected in the sequence.

11. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:

displaying the alphabetic characters and numeric characters associated with each key adjacent to one another.

12. The method as in claim 9 further comprising:

performing a query to an address book using the alphabetic characters and/or numbers associated with the sequence of keys to identify the contact entries to include within the contact list.

13. The method as in claim 9 further comprising:

highlighting alphabetic characters and/or numbers within the contact list that correspond to the alphabetic characters associated with the sequence of selected keys and/or the numbers associated with the sequence of selected keys.

14. The method as in claim 9 wherein, if one or more keys within the sequence are not keys within the second group of keys, then generating a contact list containing contact entries, each of the contact entries within the list identified based solely on the alphabetic characters associated with the sequence of selected keys.

15. The method as in claim 14 further comprising:

causing the specific number associated with each key in the second group of keys to be selected rather than the specific alphanumeric character in response to detecting that no contact entries exist which correspond to the alphabetic characters and/or the numbers associated with the sequence of selected keys.

16. The method as in claim 15 further comprising:

generating a visual display of the numeric characters but not the alphabetic characters or the contact list.

17. A method for dialing a telephone number on a telephony device comprising:

assigning to each of a first group of keys of an alphanumeric keyboard a specific alphabetic character;

assigning to each of a second group of keys of the alphanumeric keyboard both a specific alphabetic character and a specific number; and

monitoring keys on the keyboard selected in sequence by an end user, and if all keys within the sequence are keys within the second group of keys, generating a visual representation of both the alphabetic characters and the numeric characters associated with each of the keys selected in the sequence, whereas if one or more of the keys within the sequence are keys not within the second group of keys, generating a visual representation of only the alphabetic characters associated with each of the keys selected in sequence.

18. A method as in claim 17 further comprising:

generating a contact list containing contact entries if all of the keys within the sequence are keys within the second group of keys, each of the contact entries within the list identified based on the alphabetic characters associated with the sequence of selected keys and/or the numbers associated with the sequence of selected keys.

19. The method as in claim 17 further comprising:

displaying the alphabetic characters and numeric characters associated with each key adjacent to one another.

20. The method as in claim 18 further comprising:

performing a query to an address book using the alphabetic characters and/or numbers associated with the sequence of keys to identify the contact entries to include within the contact list.

21. The method as in claim 18 further comprising:

highlighting alphabetic characters and/or numbers within the contact list that correspond to the alphabetic characters associated with the sequence of selected keys and/or the numbers associated with the sequence of selected keys.

22. The method as in claim 17 wherein, if one or more keys within the sequence are not keys within the second group of keys, then generating a contact list containing contact entries, each of the contact entries within the list identified based solely on the alphabetic characters associated with the sequence of selected keys.

23. The method as in claim 22 further comprising:

causing the specific number associated with each key in the second group of keys to be selected rather than the specific alphanumeric character in response to detecting that no contact entries exist which correspond to the alphabetic characters and/or the numbers associated with the sequence of selected keys.

24. The method as in claim 23 further comprising:
generating a visual display of the numeric characters but not the
alphabetic characters or the contact list.